

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES**

San Diego County Veterans Service Office
5560 Overland Ave. Suite 310, San Diego, CA 92123
October 11, 2014

Meeting Held at the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park (VMMC)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Beth Newton, Chair District 1; Michael Robledo, Vice-Chair District 5; Ben Dillingham III, Member at Large; Ted Kagan, District 2; John Weaver, District 4; Terry Jensen Member at Large; Nancy Owen, Member at Large; Tom Splitgerber, VSO

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Rodriguez, Member at Large (U); Laurie Martell, District 3 (U)

OTHERS PRESENT

Michael Piepenburg, Veteran Service Representative, Sr. San Diego County

1. Call to Order

Mary Beth Newton, called the VAC meeting to order at 9:30 am

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Introductions/Public Input (3 minutes)

4. Approval of Minutes Previous Meeting

Motion was made and seconded to approve prior meeting minutes

5. Chairman's Report

Mary Beth welcomed the newest VAC member Ted Kagan

Legislative:

John Weaver shared a legislative report printout sent to him by Pete Conaty & Associates of veterans' bills passed by the Governor (Attachment A).

Mary Beth passed a copy of the UVC legislative report (Attachment B)

One VA

No report

Chula Vista Veterans Home (CVVH)

Nancy Owen reminded everyone about the Chula Vista Veterans Walk on November 1, 2014. Terry Jensen passed the applications and flyers (Attachment C). More walkers are needed, they have enough volunteers. Also, sponsorship forms are available online. Registrations start at 7 am and the walk starts at 9 am. Parking shuttles are available and provided free of charge by the CVVH. Please refer to the website for additional information at CVVeteransWalk.org.

United Veterans Council (UVC)

No report

County Veteran Service Office (CVSO)

Tom Splitgerber went over the following:

Test on the virtual outreach from the Julian Library and the County office. Juan Range, VSR, with Diane Jacob engaged in a WebEx interview where veterans' benefits were explained. It was very successful.

Also, spoke about the CACVSO Training conference hosted in San Diego. Assemblywoman Toni Atkins was the guest speaker at the banquet held on October 1, 2014 at the Veterans Museum.

The County held its first tenants meeting from the Escondido Veteran's Resource Center that will be opening next year. The tenants were very enthusiastic and were exchanging ideas on the layout of spaces.

Tom also passed a donation form given to him by the Museum asking for donations for a Vietnam Exhibit the museum will be having (Attachment D).

Tom Splitgerber announced his retirement from San Diego County. His last day will be October 20, 2014. Mary Beth thanked Tom for all his years of service and his dedication to our veterans' welfare

6. Community Reports:

Mary Beth reminded everyone about the Veterans Week San Diego and the San Diego Veterans Day Parade happening on November 11. The theme this year will be "A Tribute to Afghanistan and Iraq Veterans". The parade will be on Harbor Drive, the prestige parade route. Please save the date (Attachment E).

Nancy reminded about the 25th Women Veterans Luncheon on November 1st.

Ted Kagan said El Cajon Veterans Day ceremony will be on November 12. Everyone is invited.

John Weaver attended an information seminar at the Lakeside library and learned of this group called "Visiting Angels", a living assistance service in El Cajon. Their website visitingangels.com (Attachment F)

Tom Splitgerber reminded about the Veteran of the Year recognition luncheon being held November 7, at the Scottish Rite Center in Mission Valley.

7. Unfinished Business

Veterans hiring policy; no new updates

8. New Business

No new business

9. Closing Remarks

10. Adjourned

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am